2 Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1945 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

the general control of the State Secretary, an Omani Arab borrowed from the Tanganyika Government. Apart from him there were eighteen other non-Hadhrami Arabs and Indians in the administration, mostly doctors, technicians and military officers.

In 1934 on the best figures available the revenue was about Rs. 630,000. For 1944-5 it was estimated at just under Rs. 15,000,000. In 1934 the amount spent on Government services was about 3,010,000 of which 2,025,000 went to Yafa'i Irregulars and slaves. In 1944-5 the expenditure was estimated at just under Rs. 16,000,000. In 1934 the then Sultan put about half the revenue in his pocket and, just before he left for India for the last time before he died, he emptied the till and left the treasurer to borrow from the merchants, so when the first check of Government cash was made on April 1, 1939, there was still a deficit of about Rs. 40,000. On April 1, 1944, there was a credit of over Rs. 14,000,000.

Up to the end of 1936 insecurity was rife all over the country. No one could travel safely without an escort from the tribe through whose territory he moved. In the settled areas many villages were at war with neighbouring villages. In some cases there were elaborate trench systems both for defence and for communication with the fields. It was estimated that the sudden death-rate in the principal part of the Wadi Hadhramaut alone was ten a month. Even the unarmed classes were not infrequently murdered. The worst area was Kathiri Territory, but there were others almost as bad in areas under Qu'aiti influence. The Qu'aiti security forces were really only effective for keeping the bedouins out of the main Qu'aiti towns. They would not have been really effective there if it had not been for humiliating agreements which the Sultan had made with the bedouins that they would not raid within short distances of the towns marked with white boundary posts. The regular forces had been reduced to ceremonial duties only: the power of the State depended on Irregular mercenaries and slaves, and the Sultan was generally at their mercy, his authority depending on being able to play the one off against the other.[1] Early in 1937 a general peace treaty was arranged for three years between all the tribes and tribal sections. To this there were nearly 1,400 signatories which in itself gives an idea of the divided state of the country. In the same year we began the reorganization of the regular forces. In 1940 the truce ran out: an extension for ten years was proclaimed and for the most part loyally adhered to, but a good deal of tribal trouble recurred and the local forces were not yet sufficient in numbers or skill to keep order everywhere. Trouble gradually lessened and in 1944 the Qu'aiti State was paying over four lakhs of rupees for armed and police forces which on the whole kept order and peace very well. Incidents during 1944 were very few.

The bedouin today has a real confidence in the Qu'aiti Government.

[1] About the last official trace of slavery disappeared in 1944 when the State slaves were freed. Many of them were enlisted in a new African Company and the old ones were pensioned off.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

778 theless, their trust in the ability of the white Westerner and in the power of his instruments counterbalances these intimidating factors. If we go calmly ahead armed with our automatic pistols and electric torches they can keep enough courage to follow

●165 778 Bīr Barhūt is mentioned in several old Arabic works on geography.

El-Hamdānī, who wrote, about A. D. 900, his *Kitāb Ṣifat Djazīrat el-ᶜArab*, mentions Bīr Barhūt among other remarkable wells and quotes the curse: "May Allāh send his soul to join the souls of the unbelievers in Barhūt!" [1]

El-Masᶜūdī, who wrote, about A. D. 950, his *Kitāb Murūdj edh-Dhahab*, says: "The volcano of Wādī Barhūt lies somewhere in the country of Asfār and Ḥaḍramaut, belonging to the land of esh-Shiḥr, which lies between the Yemen and ᶜOmān; its voice, like that of thunder, is to be heard from many miles away. It ejects coals as large as mountains and pieces of black rock, whose sound as they are thrown into the air can be heard afar off, and which fall into and around the crater. The coals which come out of it are stones, red hot from the fire", etc. [2]

El-Qazwīnī writes in his *ᶜAdjā'ib el-Makhlūqāt*, about A. D. 1250: "Bīr Barhūt is close to Ḥaḍramaut. The Prophet — on whom be the *ṣalāt* and the *salām* — has said of this *Bīr*, that the souls of unbelievers and of hypocrites dwell within it. It is a well from the time of ᶜĀd, in the desert part of a dark wādī. It is told of ᶜAlī — to whom God be merciful — that he said: 'The bit of earth most hated by Allāh is Wādī Barhūt, in which there is a well filled with evil-smelling, black water, wherein go the souls of the unbelievers.' El-Aṣmaᶜī says that he was told by a man from Ḥaḍramaut: 'Whenever we notice

[1] El-Hamdānī, *op. cit.*, p. 128, l. 25; 201, l. 2; 203 *infra*. See also for the legend of Bīr Barhūt, J. Halévy, *La légende arabe sur Bourhoût* in *Journal Asiatique*, 8e Série, T. ii., p. 442—454.

[2] *Les Prairies d'Or*, ed. Barbier de Meynard et Pavet de Courteille, Vol. ii. (Paris, 1863), p. 26—27.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

a foul smell in the neighbourhood of Barhūt, then, later on, we are informed of the death of one of the most prominent among the unbelievers'." [1]

Other writers when speaking of Ḥaḍramaut also mention Bīr Barhūt and record what they have heard of it. That does not differ in essentials from what is said by the old writers. [2]

The first more exact information comes from the aforementioned Ḥaḍramī scholar, the late Sayyid Bin ʿAqīl; he was the first writer to see Bīr Barhūt for himself and even had the courage to enter it for some distance and he gives a detailed account of what he thinks he saw and observed within it. [3] It is true that he speaks still of the trails of snakes, of the smell of sulphur and of the ashes of burnt sulphur, but his description differs widely from the pool of sulphur into which were thrown the souls of unbelievers.

This description of his travels was only published after our return from Ḥaḍramaut. We both, however, had the privilege of meeting the learned Sayyid and of hearing from his own mouth much that was worth knowing. He spent his last years in Ḥodēda in the Yemen, being exiled by the Qeʿēṭī Government. We had met a brother of his at el-Kāf's house in Terīm.

We left Qabr Hūd for Bīr Barhūt at five o'clock on the morning of June 3rd. We went on foot, but had a camel with us laden with water-skins. As baggage we had only cameras, electric torches, compasses and a rope. Wādī Barhūt debouches into the main wādī close to Qabr Hūd. It is fairly wide at first and the surface soil is a thick layer of loam. A remnant of agriculture and a few small date-groves still remain. There is also the well from which, on the previous evening, we had procured drinking-water. No trace is left

[1] El-Qazwīnī, *ʿAdjāʾib al-Makhlūqāt*, ed. Wüstenfeld (Göttingen, 1849), Vol. i., p. 198.

[2] Cf. Th. and Mrs. Bent, *op. cit.*, p. 138 *sq.*; C. Landberg, *Etudes sur les dialectes de l'Arabie méridionale*, Vol. i., *Ḥaḍramoût*, Leiden, 1901, p. 440 *sq.*, 445 *sqq.*, 483.

[3] See the weekly paper *Ḥaḍramaut*, 9th year, No. 304, Surabaya, 9th Oct. 1931.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

yet afford to offer pensionable service. Conditions of employment for a qualified teacher are therefore inferior to those obtainable, even in teaching, in the Colony. 875

Principal Events

The greatest change in the period under review was the closing down in March, 1952, of the Aden Protectorate College for the sons of Chiefs, a boarding school of primary standard which has been running for 17 years in the Colony. The College served a useful purpose and gained a high reputation in its time but was too small to be run economically. It has now been superseded by the primary schools in the various districts of the Western Protectorate. 873

Work on an intermediate boarding school at Zinjibar in the Western Protectorate began about the same time. The new intermediate school, which will take another three years to complete, forms a vital link between the primary schools and the Aden and Technical Colleges.

HEALTH

General

Protectorate health statistics are not yet available, though in places such as Tarim recent local studies show an infantile mortality rate of 439 per 1,000 live births, a rate rather greater than those previously reported for Mukalla and parts of the Western Protectorate. 165

Diseases

Important causes of sickness in the population are malaria, the dysenteries, ulcers, trachoma and conjunctivitis. Less obtrusive are pulmonary tuberculosis, bilharzia of both urinary and intestinal types, guineaworm (in patchy distribution), leprosy, dermal leishmaniasis and the common venereal diseases with, in places, what appears to be either yaws or bejel. In areas where night-soil is used as manure for salad vegetables round-worm infection is common. Where, as in the Hadhramaut towns, rigid purdah still obtains, ostemalacia, obstructed labour and puerperal fever are of relatively frequent occurrence. Through failure of the capricious rainfall or floods in the winter months, famine and its associated subnutrition are an ever present threat. In certain Western States the consumption of qat (*Catha edulis*) is a cause of subnutrition and affections of the digestive tract. 164 [291]

Important causes of death in both young and adults are malaria and the dysenteries, and in adults pulmonary tuberculosis.

Prevention and treatment are provided by mobile health units, static health units (previously called dispensaries) and hospitals. Prevention is furthered by lectures, demonstrations and film shows to teachers and local administrators, and by emphasis in the training of subordinate technical staff on the preventive aspects of medicine, more particularly cleanliness, insect control, balanced feeding and the values of local foodstuffs. A series of propaganda leaflets has been planned and the first one—on malaria—issued to the public. An effort is being made among communities remote from hospitals and health units to market at controlled prices insecticides, malarial remedies and sulphamezathine in small containers with instructions in Arabic. 743 744

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Hadhramaut MM2

of Sheikh 'Othmān and small village of Hiswah on the north-east, at a radius roughly of ten miles from Aden town. The island of Socotra, in the Arabian Sea, passed under the protection of the British Government in virtue of a treaty concluded with the Sultan of Mahrah in 1886 (p. 205).

The peninsula of Aden proper is an irregular oval, 15 miles in circumference, with a diameter of from 3 to 5 miles, connected with the mainland by a neck of land about 1,350 yards wide, but at one place nearly covered at high spring tides. The causeway and aqueduct, however, are always above, although at some seasons only just above, water level. The peninsula consists of a huge crater walled round by precipices, the highest point being 1,775 feet above the sea; and rugged spurs, with valleys between, radiate from the centre. A great gap in the circumference of the crater has been rent on its eastern sea-face by some later volcanic disturbance. The town of Aden and part of the military cantonment lie within the crater, and consequently are surrounded on all sides by rocky hills. Lavas, spongy breccias, and tufas form the materials of this volcanic fortress. The natural vegetation is very scanty and resembles that of Arabia Petræa.

The average shade temperature of Aden is 87°—the mean monthly range being from 75° in January to 98° in June, with occasional variations up to or exceeding 102°. The lulls between the monsoon periods, in May and September, are specially oppressive. The mortality among Europeans, although greatly increased by the sick or dying from the passengers and crews of ships, amounts to only 7·2 per thousand. Aden, in fact, ranks as a rather healthy station for troops, though on first arrival they are subject to sandfly-fever, and it is a well-ascertained fact that long residence impairs the faculties and undermines the constitution of Europeans. The climate during the north-east monsoon, or from October to April, is cool and pleasant, particularly in November, December, and January. During the remainder of the year (the period of the south-west monsoon), hot sandy winds, known as *Shamāl* (north), prevail within the crater, but on the western or Steamer Point side the breezes come directly off the sea and are fairly cool. The rainfall may be said to vary from ¼ inch to 8½ inches, with an irregular average of about 3 inches; the irregularity and smallness of the yearly rainfall is borne out by the fact that the tanks, since their restoration in 1856, have only been filled six times—in May 1866 and 1870, and September 1877, 1889, 1893, and 1897. The Settlement is exceptionally free from infectious diseases and epidemics. The absence of vegetation, the dryness of the soil, and the

1,000 live births in the 4 years 1945-48, and subsequently declined to 162 in 1949 and to 166 in 1950. As in the case of population death rates, the infant mortality statistics are exaggerated by the inclusion of immigrant deaths.

Figures for the 5 years 1946-50 indicate that deaths among children under 5 years of age accounted for 34 to 38 per cent of the total deaths. The stillbirth rate varied from 54 to 73 per 1,000 births; the maternal mortality rate, from 4 to 7 per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.

Few statistical studies have been made in the Aden protectorates. The total death and infant mortality rates are believed to be generally higher than those of the Colony, but in the absence of authentic records, inadequate data are available for measuring the actual health status of the people. Evidence obtained from the interrogation of 76 women, from 15 to 45 years of age, in Western Aden Protectorate in 1939-40[20] suggests an average infant mortality of 245 per 1,000 live births, varying from 80 to over 500 in different localities. Infancy was not accurately defined, however, and any baby breast-fed and unable to walk was classified as an infant. The mortality among children under 5 years of age was 25 to 100 per cent greater in most areas. Malnutrition and ignorance of the fundamental principles of child care are important factors contributing to the high mortality in infancy and early childhood in both the Colony and the Protectorate.

Social Economy

The economy of the Colony is based almost entirely upon shipping and trade. Not only is Aden a prominent fueling station for ocean and coastwise vessels, but it derives considerable wealth from the transshipment of goods to and from Yemen and adjacent territories, usually by means of dhows and camel caravans. The production of salt in evaporation beds along the coast surrounding Aden harbor is the only export industry. Numerous small plants have been

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reported from the Colony of Aden since 1929. A few cases are treated almost every year in the Colony hospitals, but, with rare exceptions, they have occurred among immigrant families or among persons arriving from other ports. Vaccination against smallpox is compulsory for all residents of the Colony. In addition, intensive revaccination campaigns are undertaken by the health authorities whenever cases are discovered, or when outbreaks are reported from adjacent areas, as at the time of the epidemic in Mukalla in 1949. Although visitors to the Colony are required to possess valid certificates of vaccination, enforcement is sometimes difficult because of the large numbers of dhows and other small vessels which ply between Aden and Indian or African ports. Vaccination posts are established along the land frontiers on caravan routes from Yemen and Western Aden Protectorate, at which immigrants are examined, and, if necessary, vaccinated.

Other Infections. Pneumonia is widespread, ranking among the leading causes of death in both the Colony and the Protectorate. The fatality rate among the immigrant community in the Colony is unusually high, since many of the individuals who flock to the port in search of work or medical attention arrive in a debilitated condition. Sporadic cases of diphtheria are reported each year from the Colony. Chickenpox, measles, mumps and poliomyelitis are endemic. Localized outbreaks of meningococcus meningitis are recorded occasionally.

Diseases Spread or Contracted Chiefly Through Contact

Venereal Diseases. All forms of venereal diseases are observed among the civilian populations in Aden Colony. Syphilis and gonorrhea are reportable, but the statistics probably fail to give a true picture of the relative frequency of the different venereal infections. In 1948 and 1949, following the inauguration of a campaign for better re-